

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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February 2024

## Alleghany Rotary

Blessed by an invitation from Program Chairman Joel McMillan, I was invited to speak to the Alleghany Rotary Club on Jan. 3 in Sparta. My theme is to tell stories that share the essence of photographs of my life's journey. Please enjoy portions of my program:

- Andy and Ann Garner's dedication to helping Special-Needs Families and Special Olympics.
- Surry Community College Senior Vice President of Financial Services Tony Martin's dedication to President Dr. David Shockley and the college.
- Dr. Don Martin's role of helping me meet people who are willing helpers.
- Brent and Brenda McKinney's lives as missionaries to Jamaica.
- Phillip Gordon's awesome community outreach and servanthip in Stokes County.
- Polly Long and Wendy Carriker with over 80 years of contributions to public education.
- Holly Lamm's dynamic march to becoming president of Yadkin Valley Rotary Club.
- The late Fred Patterson, Pete Carroll, Dr. Jim Harrell Sr., Howard Reynolds, Fred Norman, and R.O. Lanier's legacies of benevolences in the Elkin region.
- Clark Going's time and dedication to the Surry County Schools Board of Education.
- Jerry Duncan's counsel to Matt and Eddie Settle about his career playing under Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and Alabama's "Roll Tide" football.
- Dr. Richard Brinegar and wife Ava's involvement at the Elkin City Schools, Antioch Methodist Church, Animal Ark, and Duke University.

## Shrine Bowl Referee

Friend Mickey Holleman is the manager at Jonesville's Parrish Tire Co. retail stores. We connected in early January and I mentioned his memorable career as a high school football official, including leading the crew that officiated the Elkin High School's state championship victory over Southside 30-6 in 2002.

In our ensuing chat, I learned of his career highlight of being the referee at the 2023 N.C./S.C.

Shrine Bowl at Spartanburg High School won by South Carolina 24-0. The Shrine Bowl, our region's pinnacle of high school football athletic competition, was first played in 1937 and is sponsored by the Masonic Lodge benevolent outreach to benefit the Shriners Children's Hospitals.

Mickey started his career alongside his late father, Coach Jim Holleman, at Mount Airy's Reeves Center as a rec-league official. His dad, the ultimate supporter of sport, would be proud of his son.

Aspiring officials start their path at preparatory clinics, take national certification tests, and work through the ranks by officiating high school games. The more successful are rewarded by assignments to higher classification games (4A) of more competitive teams. Crews consist of six officials. The ref in charge wears a white cap, stands behind the offensive backfield, and communicates the game status and action to the opponent benches.

Mickey, who has officiated for 33 years, shared that a most memorable moment was visiting the Shriners Hospital in Greenville, S.C., on Friday prior to the Saturday game and seeing children's smiles.

We congratulate Mickey and praise his march to the top. Only the best are chosen to work the championship games, and they've earned the right to apply the rules of the game. Way to go, Mickey!

## James Blackburn

In 1963, James Blackburn at Elkin High School captured the state's 154-pound wrestling championship. More significantly, the feat was accomplished by defeating all 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A matmen in James' weight class. Today, each class — there are 13 — has its individual championship. James won 61 of 67 career matches, was never pinned, and recorded the fastest pin: 0.7 seconds.

James also starred in baseball, football, and track. He was honorably discharged after 26 years as a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. He lives in Elkin and is dedicated to the Cool Springs Baptist Church.

In an outstanding interview on 100.9 WIFM Radio, James shared that he credits the late Coach Bob Crissman with his tutelage leading to the coveted title.

## Oakwoods Grocery

Robert and Sue Rizoti gave 39 years to creating a legacy while owning Oakwoods Grocery on Brushy Mountain Road in Wilkesboro, N.C. Robert, who retired in 2021, and I recently spent a day riding and sharing how their odyssey evolved.

From the start, the Rizotis' intention was to provide affordability for devoted customers. One popular offering was freshly prepared sandwiches from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Starting with fresh loaves of Merita Bread and Duke's Mayonnaise, the sandwiches included:

- Bologna (optional cheese and tomato at no additional charge)
- Sandwich meat (cheese and tomato optional)
- Ham & cheese
- Banana sandwich with Duke's Mayonnaise
- Tomato sandwich with Duke's Mayonnaise
- Peanut butter and jelly sandwich

For less than \$3, faithful customers could enjoy a nourishing lunch with chips and soda and have a sandwich made as one watched. Add social interaction and fellowship unparalleled in content and portion and an incomparable dimension and affordability was born.

Several other noteworthy Oakwoods Grocery features were:

- Custom-made Christmas fruit baskets.
- Being closed on Sunday.
- Bi-monthly prepared food (chicken stew, BBQ, etc.) fundraisers with proceeds to worthy causes — usually \$2,000 net to beneficiaries.
- Full-service gasoline.
- Fresh local produce, always including local greenhouse tomatoes.
- Free air.
- Non-ethanol regular gasoline.
- Diesel fuel.
- Robert always in shorts.
- Buckets of smiles, warm greetings, and genuine concerns for the community.
- A tradition of employing part-time helpers.
- Fundraisers featured helpers under a prep tent.

## Pure Magic

The last chapter of the late Shelby Badgett Nichols Celebration of Life was a graveside service at White Plains Friends Meeting Cemetery. Quakers established the Meeting in north-central Surry County in 1850 and it's a thriving complement to the community that also has a Baptist Church and school and a K-5 Surry County Schools elementary. The primary transportation is Old and New U.S. Highway 601. The church cemetery is maintained by church members.

Shelby became a Meeting member after

marrying Roger Louis Nichols. The service by the Rev. Jon Cawley included a portion of Ecclesiastes 3 that is an invitation to trust God's sovereign hand. All things are appointed. This is a foundation to live a life of meaning, purpose, and impact.

Guitarist and vocalist Will Whitaker sang and played the Albert Brumley classic of 1929, "I'll Fly Away." After Will finished, Rev. Cawley asked him to repeat the last verse and all in attendance to sing along. The last verse and chorus are:

Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joy shall never end.  
I'll fly away.

(Chorus) I'll fly away, oh, Glory  
I'll fly away.  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by  
I'll fly away.

## Always Rejoice

Mount Airy Friends Bible Study members on Nov. 19 were tasked to always rejoice, pray constantly, and always give thanks in all circumstances.

We praised Yadkin County's laureate historian Andrew Mackie for his role in Leadership Yadkin and for showing us a 300-year-old poplar tree.

Howard Hull is approaching his 97th birthday. We voiced appreciation for him, his late wife Betty Jean, and sons Bill, Brent, and Chad and daughter Ladonna Sheaffer.

We celebrated Perry "Ty" Lowe III's induction into the Wilkes County Agricultural Hall of Fame, his wife Catrina, their children and spouses, and grandchildren; R.O. Lanier who recently passed at 102; and Gerald and Teresa Plaster, Phillip Gordon, and Mike Felts thriving at the Armfield Recreation Center. We also gave thanks for Christy Brady and Graham and Melissa Atkinson for their services to the Surry County Sheriff's Department's Give-A-Kid-A-Christmas.

## Hopeful Skills

- Warn those who are lazy.
- Comfort those who are frightened.
- Take care of the weak.
- Be patient with everyone.
- Never pay back evil with evil.
- Do good to others.
- Always be joyful.
- Pray constantly.
- Always be thankful.
- Never smother the Holy Spirit.
- Don't scoff at those who prophesy.
- Accept what is true.
- Keep away from evil.
- May rich blessings from Christ be with you.

*[Adapted from 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22]*

## Be Ready To Learn

1. My dedicated Sunday School teacher, cousin Sarah Johnson, shared a jewel by legendary Quaker Isaac Pennington. In the mid-1600s, in his testimony on integrity, he shared, "We endeavor to behave and speak so there is no lapse of time between what we believe, what we say, and what we do."

2. The late iconic leader Ruby Lambert's grandson Dee Porter said, "GG made countless friends on the fly" — meaning, developing a meaningful relationship came naturally to her.

3. Two treasurable sayings seen on pillows in the visitors lobby at Hugh Chatham Health Rehabilitation Center in Elkin: "Choose Kindness" and "Live by faith, grow in grace, and walk in love."

4. An awed opponent said, "The world's consensus best soccer player, Lionel Messi, led every teammate to play better than his potential."

5. In the midst of Dr. Keith Bentley's funeral at North Wilkesboro's First Baptist Church, we realized from most meager starting means he very well may be the most accomplished person we've known. His accumulation of accolades is profound.

6. It was announced shortly before our N.C. legislature passed the embattled Medicaid expansion bill that North Carolina would receive a \$2.5-billion sign-on bonus by merely becoming a part of the nationwide expansion.

7. Pastor Jon Cawley closes every official ceremony with this benediction from Numbers 6:24-26. "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

8. From a campaign speech delivered by the late presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson: "When Cicero spoke, people would say, 'What a great speech.' However, when the world's best orator, Demosthenes, spoke, people would say, 'Let us march.' He overcame a severe stutter by speaking with a mouth full of pebbles and facing a mirror."

## Promises And Rewards

Found in Jeremiah 29:10-14 (New Living Translation) is this lifesaver (paraphrased):

I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you.... They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you.... I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.

## Roles And Responsibilities

Dr. Kyle Farmbry at Guilford College in Greensboro found an essay the late Congressman John Lewis wrote shortly before his death in 2020. Lewis, a leader in the 1960s' civil rights movement, reflected on civic change and the roles and responsibilities we citizens face in the 21st Century.

Lewis recalled hearing the Rev. Martin Luther King speak in the late 1950s about philosophies of nonviolence and what King referred to as "the Beloved Community." Writing a half-century later, Lewis stated, "Each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, which [Dr. King] identified as being reflective of 'a nation and world society at peace with itself.'"

The son of Alabama sharecroppers, Rep. Lewis served in the U.S. House of Representatives as Georgia's 5th District congressman from 1987 to his death in 2020.

## Word Match Game

Match the word on the right with its definition from the left.

- |                |       |                       |
|----------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1. choose      | _____ | A. exercise equipment |
| 2. baroque     | _____ | B. church             |
| 3. concertina  | _____ | C. faker              |
| 4. Beefmaster  | _____ | D. 17th-century art   |
| 5. Stairmaster | _____ | E. whiskey            |
| 6. bootleg     | _____ | F. unmanned aircraft  |
| 7. brogan      | _____ | G. eighth of a mile   |
| 8. survey      | _____ | H. cattle             |
| 9. talent      | _____ | I. fondly             |
| 10. Antioch    | _____ | J. part of apple      |
| 11. drone      | _____ | K. frustration        |
| 12. charlatan  | _____ | L. limited police     |
| 13. soldier    | _____ | M. assessment         |
| 14. reverently | _____ | N. holy place         |
| 15. furlong    | _____ | O. kindness           |
| 16. core       | _____ | P. stout shoe         |
| 17. joy        | _____ | Q. ability            |
| 18. Zion       | _____ | R. Messi              |
| 19. Lionel     | _____ | S. cure               |
| 20. constable  | _____ | T. wall builder       |
| 21. Nehemiah   | _____ | U. music instrument   |
| 22. dang       | _____ | V. inactive person    |
| 23. antidote   | _____ | W. great delight      |
| 24. idler      | _____ | X. warrior            |

(See answers on Page 7)

# **YORK OIL/NEIGHBORS CHARITY CRUISE-IN**

**(Antiques, Rods, Trucks & Muscle Cars  
Late Model High Performance Cars)**

**ADDITIONAL CLASSIC CAR PARKING TO ACCOMMODATE 400 CARS**

**Pilot Mountain Neighbors Store**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2003**

**3:00 P.M. TILL 8:00 P.M.**

**(Rain Date October 5, 2003)**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**LIVE MUSIC FEATURING**

**THE LEGENDARY**

**KING BEES**

**CRAIG SOUTHERN & PHOENIXX**

**RAINJACKET**

**Bring Lawn Chairs or Blankets (NO COOLERS)**

**Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chicken on a Stick & Cold Drinks**

**Provided by the Pilot Mountain Civic Club**

**For Information Call:**

**Jerry Venable - 368-4705, Jeff Boles - 374-5974**

**or Garrison Toliver - 789-5561**

**(No Alcoholic Beverages)**

## **2003 Cruise-In**

On October 4, 2003, the Neighbors Stores presented a cruise-in that attracted more than 400 cars and trucks to Pilot Mountain.

Just before Christmas this year, one of the cruise-in's contestants dropped off this flyer at 100.9 WIFM Radio.

The advertisement's design is somewhat cluttered, but it certainly brings back a lot of fond memories.

## **Gracious Advocates**

- Brothers David and John Freas visiting Mount Airy Friends Meeting.
- Phillip Ratley and Jack Gentry exchanging smiles at the Sela Builders Bible Study.
- Rudy Holbrook's ever-present smile at the Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament.
- Roscoe Easter sharing his and the late Ed Bondurant's best-friends relationship.
- Ace Music & Pawn owner Terry Phillips chatting with son Tanner and staffer Bill Frye.
- Mount Airy's Central Methodist Church's stained-glass windows at Ruby Blackburn's Celebration of Life. She passed at 102. Its eastern facing is splendid.
- Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Nolan Brown, a 30-year veteran.

- Hugh Chatham Health's Renaissance leaders Warren Bates and Vicky Tysor.
- Memories of Farm Bureau's legendary Van Whitaker's record-setting customer appeal.
- WXII star Lanie Pope's guest appearance at the Surry County Sheriff's Give-A-Kid-A-Christmas telethon in the Co-op Extension conference room.
- Banners of the Rotary's Four-Way Test and logo.
- The late Clinton Moseley's campaign card prior to the 1956 Surry County Board of Education election. He pledges sobriety, honesty, dependability and distinctive service.
- Philanthropist and Westfield icon Ken Lowe and mother Barbara attending an East Surry High School Outdoor Education classroom.

## Clayton & Ken

Clayton Hall and I became close and instant friends at Mount Airy Friends Meeting. Ken Welborn and I met in 2004 in North Wilkesboro where he owns and publishes The Wilkes Record and also owns a most appreciated memorabilia collection of keepsakes. Ken wrote the following newspaper column about Clayton's role as a newsrack vendor in Thomasville.

### By Ken Welborn Record Publisher

Nearly twenty years ago, when Jerry Lankford and I were making plans to convert our Thursday Magazine TV guide into The Record, one of the first things we had to do was to find where to purchase the vending equipment we would need for "rack sales."

This question and a host of others were answered by two great friends: Dick Mitchell, publisher of the News-Topic in Lenoir, and his Circulation Manager, Mike Lambert. On many of our questions there was much conversation, but when the subject of newspaper sales boxes came up, they both quickly said there was no discussion needed there — all I needed to know was Clayton Hall.

Upon meeting Clayton Hall of Expert Newsrack Services in Thomasville, it was obvious I had gotten good advice from my friends Dick and Mike, and that Clayton's business was named quite appropriately — "Expert."

From day one, Clayton and his staff were a tremendous help to us, delivering on time and with high-quality equipment, much of which is still in good operating condition to these twenty-odd years later. I do buy my locks from Harvey Barlow at Wilkes Lock Service, but everything else I can think of in circulation supplies we did, and still do, buy from Expert Newsrack Services and our friend Clayton Hall. When The Record offices burned in 2004, one of the first calls I received offering help was from Clayton. At that time he had a fairly large refurbishing job in progress for us at his shop, and when he delivered the boxes several weeks later he would tender no bill. He said simply, "You've been through enough lately. I'll take care of this."

Such is the nature of Clayton Hall.

On my very first visit to the physical plant of Expert Newsrack Services in Thomasville, I was fascinated by the showroom there featuring all kinds of newspaper memorabilia, especially circulation items. There were several "antique" newspaper boxes, one of which caught my eye on that first visit. It was a red box set up for 10 cents Daily and 20 cents on Sunday. Of course I tried to buy it and he told me it wasn't for sale, just display. I wasn't surprised, but did ask a few more times when I would visit. One day he said, "It still isn't for

sale, but if I ever do decide to let it go, I'll give you the first call." I didn't figure I could ask for much more than that.

Fast forward to a couple of weeks ago. Clayton is now semi-retired, but stays busy taking care of his friends' newspaper rack needs. I called about needing some "racetrack repairs" on a few boxes, and, as we were picking out which day he was to come by, he offhandedly asked, "Are you still interested in that little red newspaper box from my showroom?" "Would five pounds of flour make a big biscuit?" I replied. In the next breath, he said, "I'll have it with me."

I know I stammered as I said "Thank you" over and over. I couldn't wait until the appointed day arrived. Clayton had it wrapped up for shipping and when we got it inside, we uncovered it. It was prettier and cooler than I had even remembered. Clayton Hall does everything by the book — he even had a Bill of Lading for me to sign that I had received the box. It was in a section labeled, "OTHER:." The text read, "Old K-33 Rocker Mech Rack for Museum. (Gift)"

Sometimes "Thank you" is simply not enough and this is one of those times. This old rack is from the '40s or early '50s when daily papers were a nickel each. It has been updated to reflect the 10 cents daily and 20 cents Sunday price increase sometime in the mid-'60s, and it still looks brand new.

This past weekend, I sorted through a gazillion old newspapers stored in boxes until I sneezed my head off and found one that was perfect for my new/old red box. It is a 10-cent edition of The Miami Herald dated Monday, July 21, 1969. It reads — well, just look at the accompanying photo. [The headline in an inches-tall typeface exclaims, "Man Walks On The Moon."]

Yes, I am absolutely thrilled with this amazing new piece of history for our poor man's museum here at the offices of The Record, but I am by far most pleased for being thought of, and remembered.

Thank you, Clayton Hall, for making an old man's day.

## George Fox

George Fox, evangelist and noted founder of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was born 400 centuries ago, in 1624. He died in 1691, but he left many quotations that inspire us today.

We paraphrase Fox's most famous words by saying:

1. Behave by setting a good example to all.
2. Let our lives preach.
3. Walk cheerfully among people.
4. We are equal. There is that of God in us all.
5. Be a witness and blessing for God.

## Justin Call

Justin Call, Athletics Director at East Wilkes High School, is probably the most decorated athlete in Emory & Henry College's history. From 2001 to 2004 he starred in men's basketball at the southwest Virginia college, and also excelled in the classroom where he became the first two-time Academic All-American in E&H College history.

After graduating from East Wilkes High School in Ronda, N.C., Justin attended N.C. State University for one year, then transferred to E&H. He was a three-year starter and letter winner for the late legendary Coach Bob Johnson. He had hot shooting streaks of 38 games straight and 21 games straight when he scored in double figures in each game. He scored 1,732 points in his career, making him the fifth-highest all-time scorer in E&H history. His personal-best highest single-game score was 50 points.

He won Second-Team All-Conference honors in the Dominion Athletics Conference in the 2001-2002 season and First Team All-ODAC honors in his remaining two seasons. In 2003, he was a Third-Team Academic All-American.

In 2004 he was First-Team Academic All-American, ODAC Scholar Athlete of the Year, Virginia Sports Information Directors State Player of the Year, National Association of Basketball Coaches All-America First Team, the South Region Player of the Year, and winner of the Kurt Axe Memorial ODAC Player of the Year Award.

Capping off those achievements in 2004, he became the first and only Emory & Henry athlete to win the Jostens Trophy for NCAA Division III Player of the Year. The trophy recognizes excellence in the classroom, on the playing court, and in the community.

Justin graduated from Emory & Henry in 2004. The college inducted him into its Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

He carried his lessons of service and excellence into his professional career and his public life. He is a technology educator in the Wilkes County Schools and has served as former head basketball coach, current athletic director, head baseball coach, and student success coordinator. Our Neighbors Store in Elkin honored him with a special Justin Call Day.

## Be Ready

We need always to be on the lookout for people connections. Joel McMillan, a Carolina West leader, heard me say Dr. Don Martin is a mentor, and Joel then shared that Don was his basketball coach at Wilkes Central High School in 1976-77.

I shared Joel's praise with Dr. Martin and Don said Joel was a most coachable youngster, and they've spoken by phone since they were recon-

nected. Just think, that relationship started 47 years ago when Dr. Martin was starting his illustrious career in education leadership.

As Dr. Martin and I spoke, he said, "Do you know your friend Richard Grisson was a football coach at Wilkes Central when I was there? One season we were sharing a practice area as he had wrestling and I had JV basketball. As we chatted one day, he asked if I had any football knowledge, and when I answered, 'No,' he quickly said, 'Please consider joining our football staff. I like how you work with your basketball team. People who can connect to kids can coach any sport. The ability to communicate is the first essential to being a good coach. We can teach you the X's and O's of football — that's the easy part. You can be a huge plus to our program. Eighty percent of coaching is the ability to relate, love, and care for the players. You have what we need!'"

Dr. Martin was heading back to graduate school at Duke University. He received his master's degree in teaching mathematics while at Duke and his PhD at University of Kentucky.

## Humility

Many people we know are blessed with an abundance of humility. It's hard to describe and define, but we know humility when we see it or are exposed to it. The late John McKissick abounded with it — he never flaunted his Summerville Green Wave's 621 victories. White Plains School seventh-grade teacher Hurley Simpson carried her share of humility quietly while she always made others feel special. Widower Gene Sherrill's humility permeates all social gatherings where he never is loud and flamboyant.

Author Jeff Boss ("13 Habits of Humble People") says humble people are confident, competent, self-actualized, self-effacing, and never boastful. They also:

- Are situationally aware and emotionally intelligent.
- Retain relationships.
- Easily make difficult decisions.
- Put others first.
- Listen and never gossip.
- Share the credit and wealth.
- Are curious.
- Speak their mind.
- Take time to say "thank you."
- Start sentences with "you" and never "I."
- Accept feedback, retorts, rebukes, and rebuttals.
- Accept personal responsibility.
- Ask for help, advice, and directions.
- Are driven to improve.
- Never claim to have all of the answers.
- Are totally generous.

## Seeking & Finding

In my travels I'm constantly looking for posted, positive materials in gathering places. A significant division of the Central United Methodist Church in Mount Airy is a three-star Children's Day Care Center — in 2000 the only one so ranked in Surry County. I was fortunate to tour the facility with then-Gov. Jim Hunt.

Posted on the window between a conference room and a play area are these statements of guiding principles:

- We are passionate.
- We trust and treat others with honesty and respect.
- We work hard and stand for creativity and innovation.
- We believe in community.
- We are dedicated and believe in what we do.
- We are inspired by each other.
- We are not afraid to be great.

We are grateful for those who are called to caring for children. Those formative years with guardians working fulltime elevate child care to a paramount level. The Central Day Care has 104 clients, 12 caregivers and Hannah Dickerson as its director. Gov. Hunt served from 1977 to 1985 and 1993-2001. He's credited with implementing North Carolina's Smart Start education program.

## Please Carry On

Passings and tragedies are coming whether we are ready or not. Maybe we never are ready. However, we must rally to action. Many of us say, "What can I do? I'm so inadequate with so little to do or say." For sure, show up. Send a note (not an e-mail), call, stop by, or send a flower. I have evidence in my 2023 Day-Timer® a time-proven gift is to follow up with another follow-up. In two cases, I continued to offer sympathy and prayer. Of one incident I write weekly and in another I call around 8 a.m. twice weekly.

In the past I've opened a dialogue only to cease shortly, quickly. Recently a grieving parent shared the couple's appreciation for continuing to share my grief, loss, and pain. Many of us have awesome social-media skills that are waiting to be executed and used. We must all remember that a habit can be implemented in 21 days.

Another skillful notion is to carry a compliment heard to the next level. I recently received a call from a friend who had heard son Alan has developed a touchdown tagline that followers love to hear. When the Liberty University Flames score, he shouts, "Light 'em up! Touchdown, Liberty." It's catching on; listeners are excited and charged up.

Daily we have opportunities to pass along stuff. We develop a wonderful reputation quickly.

## Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that builds confidence and teaches public speaking through a worldwide network of clubs that meet online and in person. In a supportive community or corporate environment, members prepare and deliver speeches, respond to impromptu questions, and give and receive constructive feedback. It is through this regular practice that members are empowered to meet personal and professional communications goals.

Founded in 1926, Toastmasters International is headquartered in Englewood, Calif. It has about 270,000 members in more than 14,000 clubs in 148 countries. Toastmasters International has seven clubs active in Winston-Salem, one in Kernersville, and at least 13 in Greensboro. There are none in our area, but some clubs allow online attendance. One may search for a club at [Toastmasters.org](http://Toastmasters.org).

Most clubs have around 20 members and meet once a week for one hour. Members pay \$20 to join the organization plus dues of \$60 every six months. Attending a club meeting as a guest is free.

According to its website, "the learning never stops." By joining, a member will...

1. Improve public-speaking skills.
2. Build leadership skills.
3. Maximize one's potential.
4. Enjoy personal growth.
5. Work on networking.
6. Earn a competitive advantage.
7. Build self-confidence and self-awareness.

One also will learn interviewing, presentation, meeting management, leadership development, project management, and conflict resolution. Specialized skills include accepting awards, delivering eulogies, sales pitches, introducing speakers, preparing talks, and presenting awards.

Ramona Smith, the Toastmasters International World Champion in 2003, gives this advice for making a great speech:

1. Know your subject.
2. Know your audience and space. Preparation is paramount.
3. Keep going, no apologies, the audience wants to learn.
4. Imagine yourself making a great speech.
5. Focus on your message, on your speech, never on yourself.

## Word Match Game answers

(from Page 3)

- |      |       |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. O | 6. E  | 11. F | 16. J | 21. T |
| 2. D | 7. P  | 12. C | 17. W | 22. K |
| 3. U | 8. M  | 13. X | 18. N | 23. S |
| 4. H | 9. Q  | 14. I | 19. R | 24. V |
| 5. A | 10. B | 15. G | 20. L |       |

# The Communicator

A Publication of:

100.9 WIFM

Post Office Box 1038

Elkin, NC 28621

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Beginning Beekeeping Surry County Bee School 2024



February 6 - March 12  
Tuesdays 7 - 9 pm

Surry County Farm Bureau  
112 N. White St. - Dobson

Cost is \$50 and \$25 per additional household member.

Registration form is available online at <https://surry.ces.ncsu.edu>  
or call N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center at  
336-401-8025 to register.

**100.9 WIFM**

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